

San Pedro Creek Culture Park Subcommittee Meeting
March 12, 2020
San Antonio River Authority Board Room
100 E. Guenther Street, San Antonio, TX 78204

ATTENDING

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES:

Stella De La Garza, Patti Radle, Cathey Meyer, Lourdes Galvan, Marilyn Bradley, Deb Bolner Prost, Bobby Salluce, Eddie Arron Romero

STAFF & CONSULTANTS - San Antonio River Authority: Kerry Averyt, Monica Trevino-Ortega, Carrie Brown, Steve Graham and Marisa Andrade

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Rebecca Bennett, Laura Hall, Mark E. Liberatore, Robert Ramirez, Don Mathis, Tony Cantu, Nita Schaver and Brady Ware

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Lourdes Galvan stated at 9:03 a.m. that a quorum was not present.

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES FROM FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Lourdes Galvan solicited comments from the subcommittee but noted that there was not a quorum present. Therefore, approval of the meeting notes from February was –tabled.

SUBCOMMITTEE BUSINESS

Monica Trevino-Ortega, San Antonio River Authority, Executive Office Administrator provided the following updates:

- COVID-19 concerns: signs posted, SARA using safety and sanitizing – cleaning schedule several times a day, stronger bacteria agent to clean.
- Going forward with meeting – future options to consider and plan April’s meeting – going with City and County recommendations.

QUESTIONS: none

- Economic Report which Jerry Geyer requested - document provided but waiting for presentation until Jerry returns. Questions to be emailed to Monica.

QUESTIONS: none

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY UPDATE

Kerry Averyt, San Antonio River Authority Senior Engineer, provided the following updates:

Phase 1.2 Construction Update

- Houston to Commerce - Utilities installation and Plaza paving in/out of TPR

- Commerce to Dolorosa street bridge - finish in May, Spanish Governor's wall is not strong – SARA to help with building the foundation.
- Dolorosa to Nueva – site work for paseo/plaza paving.
- Archaeological exploration – several foundations uncovered: Alamo Icehouse and supporting cistern plus original Menger Soapworks location and original AME church location. Excavated down to creek level – recommended by historical preservation to keep area – right now research is being done and find out whether or preserve or not – if no then need to redesign area the Plaza area. Too early to make call. Might be pushed to June 2021 or even 6-9 month delay due to redesign. Onboard to preserve history and culture of area

QUESTIONS

Cathey Meyer - who covers cost? SARA would cover but cannot afford the new redesign and would need to ask for more funding.

Stella De La Garza – AME stands for? African Methodist Episcopal– first African church in Texas

Marilyn Bradley – pilings, steel reinforced? Pedestals to support lights of mural, steel and aquatic plants which are all coming along. Currently river and rainbow rock sunk down into concrete so had to be redone at the cost of contractor but not a project cost.

Lourdes Galvan – temporary wall at Governors? Yes – but steel plates will be placed and be anchored to hold.

Marilyn Bradley – different ideas on wall design? Original idea is wrought iron, but Governors Palace would like some privacy for events but might consider renderings of wrought iron.

Marilyn Bradley – woven mesh on fences with design printed – could be hung for events? Kerry will pass along.

Patti Radle – explain the “opening” the wall? Openings into the wall with wrought iron but same concept with smaller openings with partial spacing.

Lourdes Galvan – idea to follow La Villita's design. Kerry has meeting coming up soon and will pass ideas along.

Marilyn Bradley – hoping to raise awareness to see historical Governors and interest.

Patti Radle – top will be removed and leaving bottom to sitting area. Kerry unfortunately wall is not in good shape to have sitting. Foundation and wall need to be replaced but will use current materials.

Phases 1.3 and 2

- Early packages approved and hope to start construction in April (demolish and excavate). A lot of factors - permits. Design ongoing. Early work packages approved with construction to begin in March 2020. By July 2020, 100% completion of full design. September 2020 – guaranteed maximum price from CMAR. Phase 1.3 and Phase 2 renderings – provide updated ones

- Kerry – ask City of San Antonio – Laredo to Guadalupe - consider making 2 way to Camp street – help folks getting down further down Laredo. Lourdes – affect railroad crossing – Kerry no, help folks get to post office and other locations.

QUESTIONS

Marilyn Bradley – construction costs are high due to hurricane destruction, limited bidding to CMR – open to other bids or stay with what we got? Kerry – continue with Sundt – currently pleased but decision is not made yet for Phase 3 and 4 – amend contracts or not.

Cathey Meyer – thank Monica for notifying area. Kerry – coming up with maps to help detour area. Monica – maps ready next week.

Partner Coordination

- Camaron street – 70% design – hope to start in May. City not able to procure right of way but SARA proceeding expansion.
- TPR – Construction accidentally cut the communications lines but SARA to meet with AT&T to make sure location and repairs began right away.
- Kerry and Suzanne meeting with City on fall project, Eddie hopefully to address at next meeting.
- Commerce street/St. Mary's to Santa Rosa – hoping for Sept. 2020.
Marilyn – cross streets? Kerry – Houston and Kingsberry, Kingsberry to Flores. Marilyn – plot of land – old baseball field, SAISD parking for administration – bond money/project. 2 lane, one way street – Marilyn: poorly constructed.
- Linda Pace – in front of Ruby City – providing property to expand channel. Kerry - Bring renderings next month.
- Federal Courthouse – how to look when both projects are finished – no fence or wall in between the federal parking/building. Landscape in between. Eddie - Powerlines are going to be buried – not aware of any current plans. Marilyn – if there's a super flood, would the water reach the powerlines? Kerry – if there's a 100 year flood then yes, water could reach powerlines.
- Executive Committee meet next week on March 13th and will report in April.

QUESTIONS: none

ART UPDATE – Project Update and Events

Carrie Brown, San Antonio River Authority Public Art Curator, provided the following updates:

Five Panel Mural RFQ – Artist Selection Process Update

- Selected Artist Team – Carlos Cortes, Fernando Andrade, Rolando Briseno, Jenelle Esparza and Ernesto Ibanez. Public meetings to be held on Saturday, March 14 at Christopher Columbus Italian Society, 201 Piazza Italia (with an optional tour of the park following the meeting) and Tuesday, March 17 at the San Antonio River Authority Main Office.

Event – GetFit at San Pedro Creek Culture Park

- The event was held on Saturday, February 22 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.
- Free fitness demo classes, wellness vendors, membership giveaways and healthy food sampling. Great group of vendors. Looking to potential growth and possible collaboration with Get Fit SA.

QUESTIONS:

Lourdes Galvan – with events, different organizations to help give classes? Carrie – we reached out to YMCA and local gyms to give classes.

Lourdes Galvan - contracts? Carrie – yes, we would execute contracts if having classes but not for the GetFit event itself.

Cathey Meyer - Commissioners aren't fully understanding the activation of Creek with these events and programs. Are numbers being communicated? Carrie- sounds like an agenda item needs to be built into the next Executive Committee meeting. Upcoming programs and signature events – CreekFest, Drum Circle and Yoga (not just at Creek but at other SARA parks). We are mindful of virus in our planning efforts.

Deb Bolner Prost – is River Foundation providing financial resources and sponsorship? Carrie – we have partnered with the Foundation on our yoga series and they are looking into sponsorship.

Creek Lines and Stream – project updates

- Creek Lines, Phase 1.1 – Working on details (canopy connections to poles, installations logistics) but still on track to finish this year and will provide current images of Creek Lines at next meeting. Steady progress on engineering, installation plan and inscriptions. Fabrication to begin this spring with a late October installation.
- Stream, Phase 1.2 – Artist is currently working on the sculpture and software program and testing of the Water Wall will be in mid-April with installation TBD. Developing sculpture design and connection details. Developing software program with spec'd lights and controller.

QUESTIONS: none

Upcoming Events -

- Community Drum Circle on the 2nd Tuesdays at 7 p.m. (Quarterly)
- Yoga on the Creek on Mondays at 6 p.m. (March through October)

COMMUNICATIONS –

Monica Trevino-Ortega, San Antonio River Authority, Executive Office Administrator provided the following updates:

2020 San Pedro Creek Outreach

- Press conference at 2 p.m. / Nueva, Commissioner Cuellar and Judge Wolff.

- May 5 – anniversary tour, several requests of Community Partners to take the tour
- Social Media – increase in numbers in all aspects, base is still with Facebook, create on trend when preparing for upcoming promotions and planning.
- Illume Promotion – most successful and created awareness - target audience to have similar interests. Media exposure – mostly from social media.
- Fiesta medals – concept for 2020, honor artist Katie who provided SPC murals. Two color concepts, all Fiesta medals are made in China so might be late.
- Interpretive Plan Update – 2/3 days to edit and then ready to report
- Street Closure Coordination – 8 weeks out: coordination with City/County partnerships and Subcommittee presentation to the public as well, 7 weeks out: block walking surrounding businesses and calling/emailing surrounding businesses, 5 weeks out: post on NextDoor app, eblast communication with weekly newsletter, have information available on website, send information to community partners for sharing, 3 weeks out: mail/email flyers to surrounding businesses and social media sharing, 2 weeks out: media advisory, reminder email to all businesses and reminder post on NextDoor app. Due to utility prep work, the continuous outreach plan is to block walk and flyer distribution. For stakeholders – we will hand deliver and interactions helped tremendously. Kerry – (Phase 2 construction along Alamo street) City asked to delay due to King William Fair, and Alamo street is the only way Sundt Davila can get their crews and equipment into area.

Alamo Street – begins late April 2020 until the end of 2022, four lane street that will be reduced to 2 lanes with traffic going both ways.

Guadalupe Street – begins late March 2020 until the end of 2022 with a full closure of traffic.

Camp Street – full closure of traffic, which begins on Late March 2020 until the end of 2022.

Graham Street – full closure begins late March 2020 until the end of 2022

Nueva Street – full closure, begins mid-June 2020 until the end of 2022.

QUESTIONS:

- Cathey Meyer – pretty significant, affects traffic and medical personal – any way to alternate? Kerry – detour maps, control plans – consider but not just our projects but also City/County.
- Lourdes Galvan – Monica doing great job in street closures. A lot of man hours, message boards. Kerry – will put those message boards in week advance.
- Cathey Meyer - Houston street closed? Kerry – yes.
- Eddie Arron Romero– weekly downtown construction meeting – VIA, police, SARA and others to coordinate projects – Tuesday at 8 a.m. Kerry – if becoming too much of an impact, then may have to extend project schedule.

CALENDER ITEMS

Lourdes Galvan reviewed the following calendar items:

- a. Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee Meeting
- b. April 9th – Next SPC Subcommittee Meeting (possible postponement)
- c. Tour on April 2nd will keep posted if need to cancel due to virus.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC AND SUBCOMMITTEE

- Rebecca Bennett - regarding closing on streets, are all the implications weighed out?
Kerry – daily communications with City and County plus taking in any public input.
- Nita Schaver - appreciates SARA going green with coffee mugs and water glasses – able to purchase? Monica - working to see to sell to public.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn – Cathey Meyer, second by Deb Bolner Prost

Adjourn 10:02 a.m.